

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 SS-15 PA-02 USIA-15 NSC-05 /051 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:HGMOEN:CBP

APPROVED BY EUR/WE:REBARBOUR

EUR/P - MR. SEIDNER

S/PRS - MR. TRATTNER

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R 152300Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS STATE 219628

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: PRESS QUESTIONS ON AMBASSADOR'S EPOCA INTERVIEW

REF: STATE 218720

1. FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WERE ADDRESSED TO DEPARTMENT SPOKES-
MAN AT SEPTEMBER 15 NOON PRESS BRIEFING.

2. QUOTE: Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT IN GENERAL ON THE
INTERVIEW BY THE AMBASSADOR IN ROME ITSELF? WHAT I MEAN
IS THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE ALLEGED THAT HE SPOKE WITHOUT
AUTHORIZATION AND AGAINST THE POLICY LINE OF THE DEPART-
MENT.

A: FIRST, I WANT TO SAY THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS
WERE AN ACCURATE AND COMPLETE REFLECTION OF US ATTITUDES
ON THE SUBJECT THAT WAS TOUCHED IN HIS INTERVIEW -- WHICH
WAS THE QUESTION OF, IN GENERAL, I BELIEVE, HOW THE US
WOULD FEEL ABOUT COMMUNISTS IN GOVERNMENTS OF NATO COUN-
TRIES.

Q: YES. AND YOU SAID "ACCURATE AND COMPLETE REFLECTION"?

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A: YES. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT IT IS MY

UNDERSTANDING THAT AMBASSADOR VOLPE WAS DISCUSSING US
ATTITUDES TOWARD DEVELOPMENTS IN ITALY. HE WAS NOT
TALKING ABOUT ITALIAN ATTITUDES. I ALSO READ THAT THE
AMBASSADOR -- I THINK, IN THAT INTERVIEW -- SAID THAT
ITALIAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS ARE MATTERS SOLELY FOR THE
ITALIANS TO DECIDE. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: QUESTIONNAIRES, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE219628
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HGMOEN:CBP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750319-1197
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750949/aaaabrdx.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 218720
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <02 FEB 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS QUESTIONS ON AMBASSADOR'S EPOCA INTERVIEW
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IT, EPOCA, (VOLPE, JOHN)
To: ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006